## Message Text

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**ACTION EB-07** 

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E.O. 11652: NA TAGS: ESTC. COCOM

SUBJECT: COCOM: LIST REVISION SESSIONS

1. FRG ECONMIN ACTING ASSISTANT SECRETARY FOR TRADE POLICY ELSON REQUESTED MEETING WITH ECON/COM MINISTER TO EXPRESS FRG CONCERN OVER SLOW PROGRESS IN COCOM LIST REVISION. HE UTILIZED OPPORTUNITY TO PRESENT FRG "NON-PAPER" IN WHICH GERMAN CONCERN EXPRESSED OVER LIMITED PROGRESS MADE THUS FAR AND SUPPORTED UK PROPOSAL FOR FOURTH NEGOTIATING ROUND TO BEGIN OCTOBER 13. FRG VIEW WAS THAT THIS FOURTH SESSION SHOULD LAST NO LONGER THAN THREE WEEKS. IN VIEW OF LARGE NUMBER OF ITEMS STILL TO BE DECIDED, HOWEVER, (ABOUT 50 OUT OF THE ORIGINAL LIST OF APPROXIMATELY 80), IT WAS ESSENTIAL, IN THE FRG VIEW, THAT TO MAINTAIN THIS TIMETABLE, ALL PARTIES TO THE NEGOTIATIONS BE PROVIDED WITH FULL INSTRUCTIONS BY THEIR GOVERNMENTS AND HAVE SUFFICIENT FLEXIBILITY TO NEGOTIATE. THE PAPER ALSO DEPLORED THE FACT THAT MANY DELEGATIONS WERE COMPOSED OF MEMBERS WHO WERE NOT TECHNICALLY QUALIFIED TO MAKE FINAL DECISIONS WITHOUT TIME-CONSUMING CONSULTATIONS WITH THEIR GOVERNMENTS.

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- 2. THE FRG WANTS TO MOVE MORE DECISIVELY TOWARD LIBERALIZATION, ACCORDING TO ELSON, WHILE PRESERVING OUR ESSENTIAL SECURITY INTERESTS. SUCH A LIBERALIZATION, HE NOTED, HAS BEEN HAMPERED BY THE PONDEROUS PACE OF THE COCOM NEGOTIATIONS. HE REFERRED IN PASSING TO HOPE THAT US DELEGATION WOULD IN FUTURE BE IN BETTER POSITION TO REACH DECISIONS EXPEDITIOUSLY. HE STATED THAT MOST ITEMS STILL OUTSTANDING REQUIRE ONLY A YES-OR-NO DECISION, SINCE THE PROBLEMS IN ALL THEIR TECHNICAL COMPLEXITY ARE ALREADY KNOWN.
- 3. ECON/COM MINISTER, WHILE EXPRESSING SYMPATHY FOR FRG INTERESTS IN COCOM MATTERS, EXPLAINED THAT USG POSITION ON EACH ITEM UNDER REVIEW WAS ARRIVED AT IN SOMEWHAT MORE COMPLEX FASHION THAN THAT EMPLOYED IN FRG, AND THAT HARMONIZING ALL VIEWS OF INTERESTED US AGENCIES REQUIRED TIME AND TECHNICAL EXPERTISE, FACTORS WHICH WERE SOMETIMES DIFFICULT TO COALESCE. NEVERTHELESS, HE ASSURED ELSON THAT WE WOULD MAKE THE FRG VIEWS KNOWN TO WASHINGTON, EMPHASIZING THE IMPORTANCE THAT THE GERMANS PLACE ON THE SWIFT AND SUCCESSFUL OUTCOME OF THE FOURTH SESSION.
- 4. COMMENT. WE NOTE IN STATE 193488 THAT DEPARTMENT HOPED THERE WOULD NOT BE NEED FOR FOURTH ROUND IN LIST REVISION NEGOTIATIONS CYCLE; HOWEVER, AS FEWER THAN HALF OF ITEMS UNDER REVIEW HAVE YET BEEN AGREED UPON, GERMANS SEEM TO BELIEVE FOURTH ROUND INEVITABLE. WHILE WE ARE UNAWARE OF ATTITUDES OF OTHER DELEGATIONS TO COCOM, IT IS APPARENT THAT THE GERMANS ARE VERY EAGER FOR CONTINUATION AND COMPLETION OF REVIEW, AN ATTITUDE APPARENTLY SHARED BY UK. WE WOULD THUS APPRECIATE HAVING SHORT SUMMARY OF WHERE REVIEW STANDS FROM DEPARTMENT POINT OF VIEW. ELSON EXPRESSED HOPE WE COULD LET GERMANS KNOW IN ADVANCE OF ANY NEW US POSITIONS, SINCE IT IS DIFFICULT TO DEAL WITH QUESTIONS RAISED FRESH DURING NEGOTIATING SESSIONS. CASH

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